

• February 6-7 Heavy Mountain Snow

Deep Pacific moisture in strong northwest flow aloft brought heavy snow to the mountains, with 2 to 4 feet of snow accumulation. A heavy band of snow also spread into southwest Denver & Palmer Divide.

1 NNE Rabbit Ears Pass – 51.8 inches
11 S Rabbit Ears Pass – 42 inches
1 W Copper Mountain – 33.6 inches
1 NNW Cameron Pass – 32.2 inches
1 WNW Loveland Pass – 32.2 inches
1 NNW Berthoud Pass – 30.8 inches
1 SSE Loveland Pass – 29.4 inches
5 WSW Winter Park – 28 inches
1 SW Eldora – 28 inches
9 SSE Gould – 28 inches
5 WSW Winter Park – 28 inches
7 SSE Cameron Pass – 26.6 inches
5 WSW Guanella Pass – 25.2 inches
5 W Green Mountain Reservoir – 25.2 inches

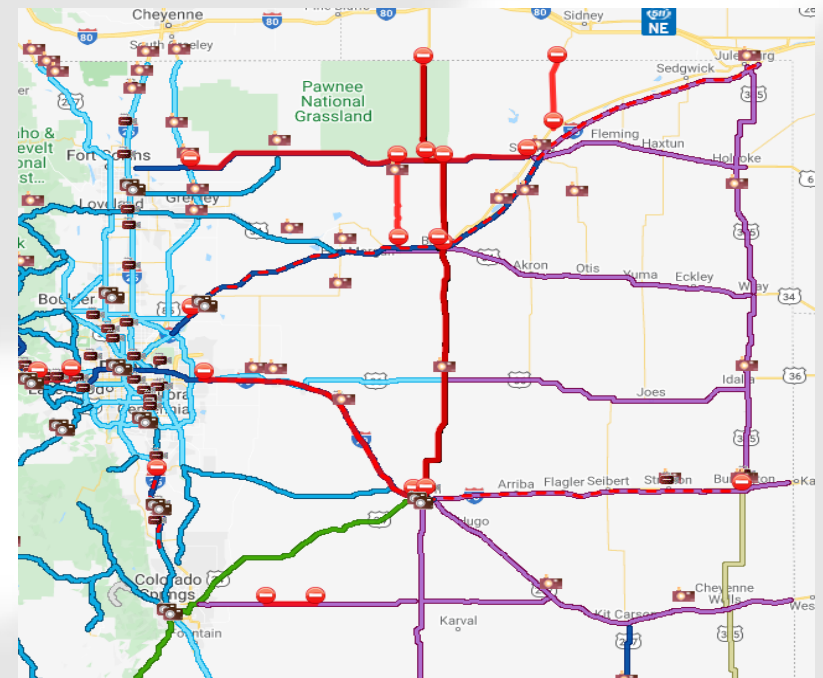
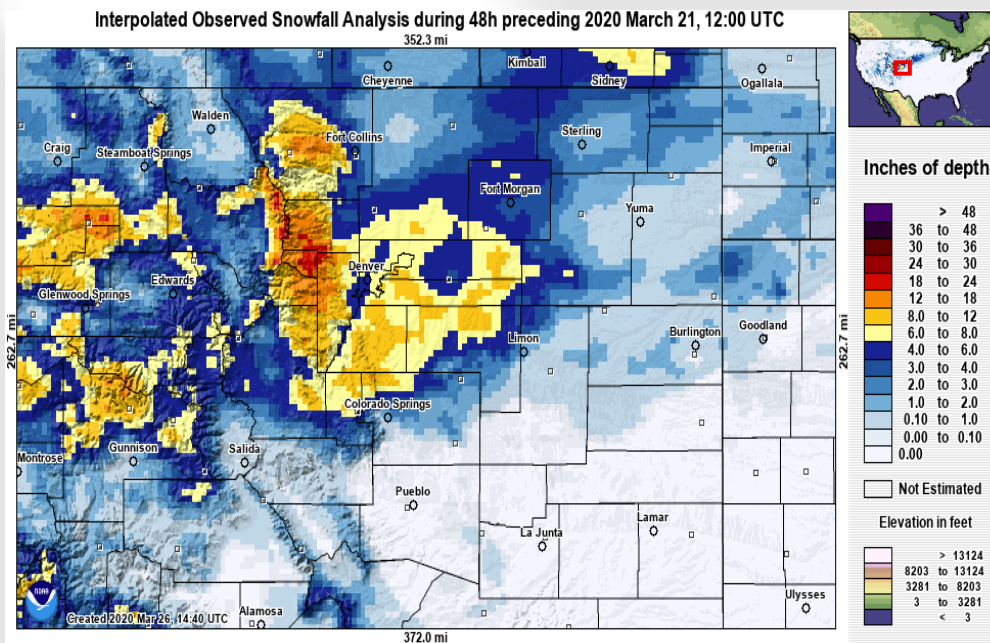
3 NNE Mount Audubon – 23.8 inches
9 SSE Spicer – 23.8 inches
8 SSE Cameron Pass – 22.4 inches
4 SE Mount Zirkel – 22.4 inches
8 SSE Rand – 21 inches



[Video from CDOT at Eisenhower Tunnel](#)

• March 19-20 Blizzard over the Plains

Blizzard conditions prevailed due 3-9" of snow combined with winds gusting 50-63 mph produced widespread whiteout conditions across the plains, shutting down most roads across northeast Colorado, including Interstates 70 and 76. In addition, 1,086 flights were cancelled at Denver International Airport. Thundersnow also occurred with this storm and the mountains recorded over a foot of snow as well.



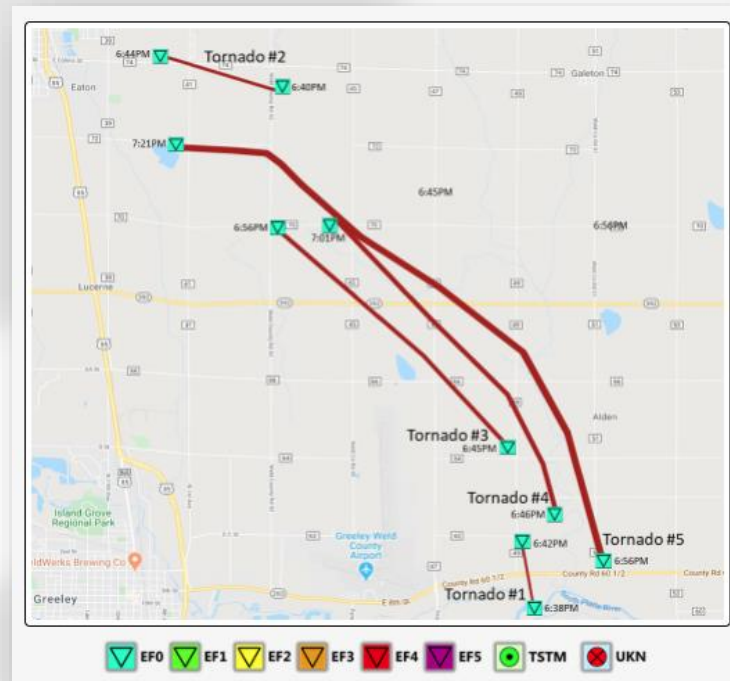
• May 20th Weld County Tornadoes

- Six landspout tornadoes formed within an hour's time along a dry-line boundary
- Minor damage occurred with four of the tornadoes, but all were rated EF-0.
- The annual average number of tornadoes for Colorado (since 1950) is 32.



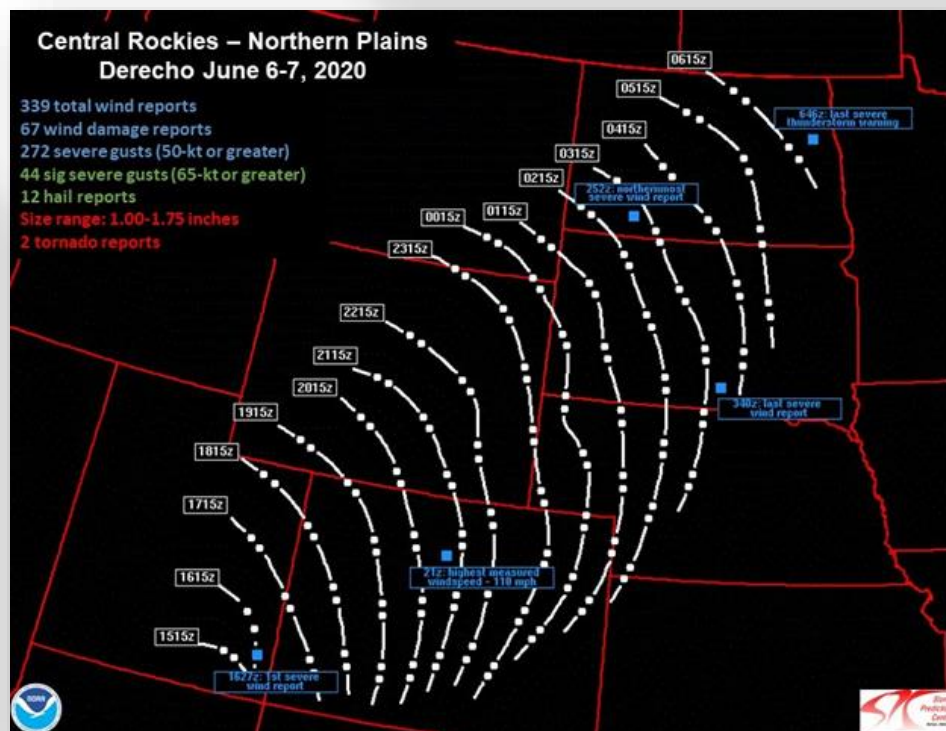
Photo Courtesy of Andrew Halpern

[Read more about this event at this link!](#)



• June 6th Rare Derecho Event

A long-lived line of thunderstorms blasted northeast from Utah to spread damaging winds all the way into the Dakotas. Numerous wind gusts of 50-100 mph were recorded across the area.



[Read more about this rare event at this link.](#)



• June 8-9th Washington County Macroburst

Strong and widespread outflow winds from decaying thunderstorms plowed across northeastern Colorado the night of the 8th, with a maximum gust of 113 mph recorded four miles east of Akron shortly after midnight. 40 to 50 power poles were knocked down and multiple carports were removed from homes.



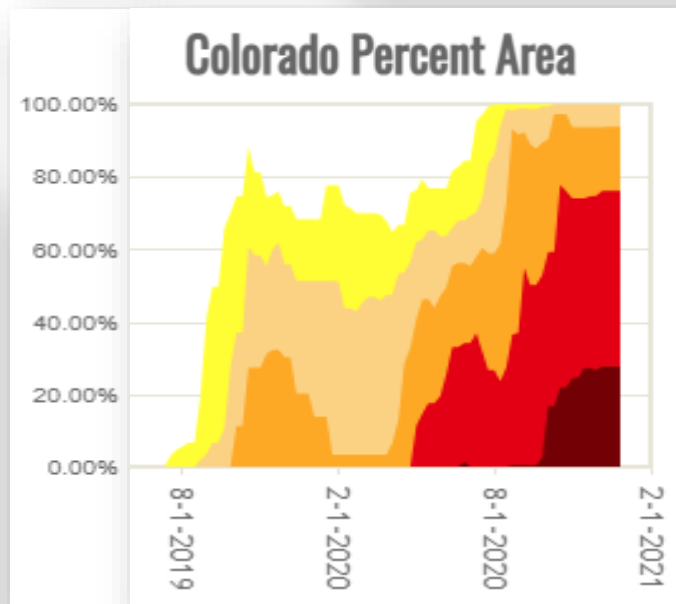
Pictures courtesy of Colorado
Department of Emergency Management



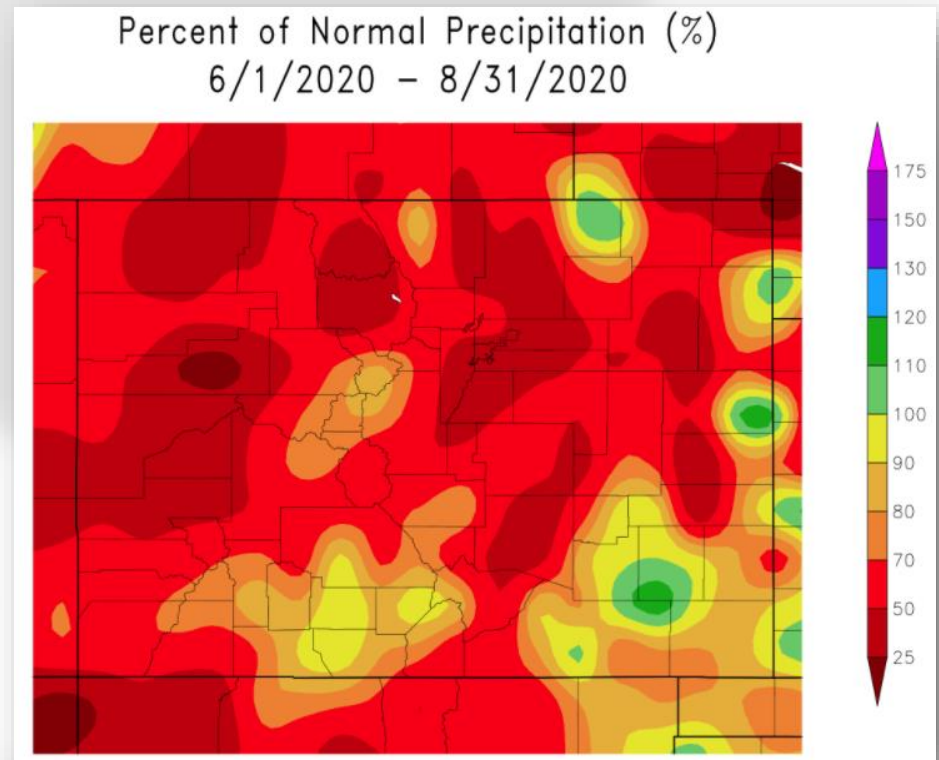
[Read more here](#)

• Drought

The seasonal shift in flow expected each summer (monsoon), responsible for bringing deep moisture from the south including the Gulf of Mexico, Baja, and the Pacific, never really established itself in 2020. This resulted in rapidly worsening drought conditions across the state during the summer and fall.





United States Drought Monitor



Data from High Plains Research Climate Center

• Record Number of 90^o+ days

-  Denver had a record of 75 days with a high temperature of 90 degrees or higher. The average occurrence is just 30.
-  An interesting note concerning one aspect of climatological warming at our local level: When looking at the total number of days annually that hit 90+ degrees, the top 11 years in Denver have all occurred since 1994, with 15 of the top 20 occurring since 2000.

Denver's Top 20 Seasonal 90 Degree Days (1872-Present)

Rank	Year	Number			
1	2020	75	12	1978	52
2	2012	73	13	2011	50
3	2000	61	-	1964	50
4	1994	60	-	1960	50
5	2018	59	-	1874	50
6	2002	56	17	2010	49
7	2016	55	-	1980	49
-	2005	55	19	2019	48
9	2013	54	-	2017	48
-	2007	54	-	2015	48
-	2006	54			

• Record Fire Weather Year

Due to the hot and dry year, bouts of wind, and the massive area of beetle-killed trees in the state, three fires this year became the largest ever recorded Colorado wildfires; Cameron Peak (208,913 acres), East Troublesome (193,812 acres), and Pine Gulch (139,007 acres). There were 46 days this year that a Red Flag Warning was in effect, more than any of the last 12 years (when this data has been being tracked). Conditions were finally slowed when a heavy snow event on October 25-26 put down 6-18" of snow over the still-burning fires.

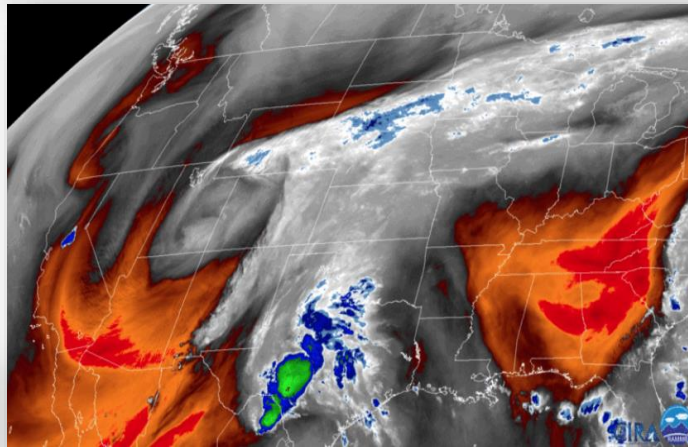


Cameron Peak Fire from Boyd Lake



- Hot to Cold – September 8-9

Record heat preceded an unusually strong low that sank into the Great Basin early September. Prior to the storm, Denver reached 101°F, to set an all time high for September. This is also the latest date in the year to surpass 100°F. Just three days later, this storm brought Denver its second earliest measurable snowfall on record, as well as bringing record cold on Sep 8th and 9th. Extremely strong easterly frontal winds rode up and over the Front Range Mountains that blew down tens of thousands of trees in Grand County alone.



[Read more about this event at this link!](#)

- Strong Winds over Eastern Colorado - Oct 11th

Strong winds of 55 to 75 mph accompanied cold front that raced south across the area. Because of the dry conditions in place, a wall of dust developed and raced south across eastern Colorado.

[Read more about this rare event at this link.](#)

